

Membership Balance Plan
Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

1. **FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE NAME:** Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (Board)
2. **AUTHORITY:** The Board is established by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (Under Secretary) who is also the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as directed by Section 12005 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) The Board shall function solely as an advisory body in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.
3. **MISSION/FUNCTION:** The purpose of the Board is to advise the Under Secretary on matters pertaining to ocean exploration including the identification of priority areas that warrant exploration; and the development and enhancement of technologies for exploring the oceans, managing the data and information, and disseminating the results. The Board will also provide advice on the relevance of the program with regard to the NOAA Next Generation Strategic Plan and other guidance documents.
4. **POINTS OF VIEW:** The Board will consist of approximately ten members including a Chair and Co-chair, designated by the Under Secretary in accordance with FACA requirements. Consideration will be given to members that are experts in fields relevant to ocean exploration, including ocean scientists, engineers and technical experts, and experts in education and communications. Membership will be open to individuals from academia, government, industry, non-governmental not-for-profit organizations, and other ocean-related institutions. Consideration will also be given to members that have national and international reputations, or have degrees or professional qualifications in: physical, chemical, or biological oceanography, social sciences, or ocean engineering, technology, operations, education, and/or communications. Members will have scientific credentials and/or relevant experience that will enable them to provide expert advice concerning Ocean Exploration Research roles within the context of NOAA's ocean missions and policies. Members will be appointed as "special government employees" (SGEs) and will be subject to the ethical standards applicable to SGEs.
5. **OTHER BALANCE FACTORS:** The categories of professional sector, geographic, gender and ethnic diversity are considered in the selection of Board members but are secondary to the scientific and technical expertise required.
6. **CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS:** NOAA solicits candidates for the Board as requests to appropriate organizations, including the Consortium for Ocean leadership, National Academy of Sciences, professional societies, university consortia, NOAA line and program offices, and existing and former Board members. These solicitations will ensure that candidates are identified in areas of relevant scientific, technical, and other areas of expertise and consideration is given to members from sectors such as academic, industry, and not-for-profit. The list of candidates is evaluated by the DFO and individuals who have

not met the criteria of the requests to organizations are removed. Existing vacancies on the Board are reviewed and candidates who provide expertise in the vacant topics are put on a short list. The short list is reviewed by the Ocean Exploration Senior Science Advisor, the Deputy Director of Ocean Exploration and Research, and the Director of Ocean Exploration and Research. A revised short list plus the full list of candidates are provided to the Under Secretary for consideration along with all supporting materials (statement of interest, 2-page CV or resume). Vacancies are filled, to the extent possible and desirable, by individuals with similar expertise.

7. **SUBCOMMITTEE BALANCE:** The process for determining balance on Board Subcommittees is the same as that used for the Board.
8. **OTHER:** N/A
9. **DATE PREPARED/UPDATED:** May 12, 2014